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	LAB-01	L-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00
	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SA-00	CRYE-00
	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
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TAGS:KPAO, PGOV, PREL, UP
SUBJECT: Ukraine: Media Reaction to December 6-7 S Visit

1. SUMMARY: Media coverage of the Secretary's trip to Ukraine was extensive and overall very positive. Television coverage primarily focused on the town hall meeting with students at Shevchenko University and was largely complimentary. Frequently mentioned topics included prospects for market economy status for Ukraine; US support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration; US-Ukraine cooperation in the energy and aerospace sectors; praise for Ukraine as a center of democracy in the region; and the Secretary's statement she is not planning to run for President. Negative coverage focused on access problems at the university site and a lack of deliverables. Some commentary portrayed "the mystery meeting" with former PM Tymoshenko as a slap at the Foreign Minister, who was kept waiting later in the day. The CIA rendition issue was largely ignored. END SUMMARY

2. The Ukrainian media started to focus on the visit to Ukraine of Secretary Rice during the first days of her European tour; coverage peaked on December 7 with dozens of wire and web-based news reports and stories on virtually every national television network. Most reporting on December 7 was straight-forward and factual, based on submissions by correspondents who attended media events as well as on the news releases from the press offices of the Secretariat of the President, Cabinet of Ministers, and the MFA. Representative headlines: "Rice: US Would Support

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Ukraine's Accession to EU, WTO, NATO" (UNIAN wire, GlavRed), "Condoleezza Rice Listened to Songs of Maidan and Decided to Support Ukraine's Accession to NATO and EU," "Rice Praised Yushchenko For His Team" (Ukrainska Pravda), "Rice: US Will Soon Grant Market Economy Status to Ukraine" (Interfax and UNIAN wires, ForUm, GlavRed), "US Secretary of State Favorably Assesses Ukraine's Achievements in Bilateral Relations" (Liga web-based wire, www.liga.net)

3. The Secretary's address to Shevchenko University students generated at least as much coverage as her meetings and press availability with senior Ukrainian officials, especially in television reports December 7. The most frequently mentioned topics from the Secretary's meetings and remarks in Kiev were: prospects for market economy status for Ukraine; US support for Ukraine's accession to WTO as well as integration with EU and NATO; US-Ukraine cooperation in energy and aerospace sectors; praise for Ukraine as a center of democracy in the region; the Secretary not planning to run for President; no adverse impact from Ukraine's withdrawal from Iraq on bilateral relations; and ending re-privatization as a positive signal for investors. The CIA torture allegations were largely ignored.

4. The tone of most same-day reports about the visit was neutral or positive. Exceptions were the Kiev affiliates of the Russian news agency Novyi Region-2 (www.nr2.ru/kiev) and Internet-Reporter (rep-ua.com) news websites. Internet-Reporter re-posted a news report from GlavRed website originally titled "Yushchenko and Rice Noted Progress in Ukrainian-American Relations" but under its own headline "Rice Did Not Bring Market Status to Yushchenko." Novyi Region-2 accused the U.S. Embassy of attempting to orchestrate questions to the Secretary in advance of her meeting with students at Shevchenko University.

5. The issue of alleged instructions to students and reports of congestion and delays at the entrance to the meeting hall at the University were briefly mentioned in three television newscasts on December 7, (Channel 5, NTN, and Era) but did not significantly detract from the overall positive tone of the newscasts. Era balanced the allegations of the Embassy issuing unnecessary guidance by an interview with a student who stated that the instructions did not go beyond advice not to carry excessive belongings in order to clear security quicker. Ukraine's most popular station, Inter, and Channel 5 noted that no definite time for granting of market economy status was given.

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6. Many newscasts accented positive statements and included praise and flattering characterizations from students and in story texts: "[Secretary Rice] states that the stop in the Ukrainian capital for her personally is the most important event on her European tour" (Studio 1+1's 7:30 pm TSN newscast); "Rice is favorably disposed toward Ukrainians on this trip. The Secretary's smile sparkles no less than her traditional pearl necklace. Rice praises the reforms that commenced after the Orange Revolution and calls Ukraine a locomotive of political reforms in Eastern Europe" (Inter's 8 pm Podrobnosti newscast); "Condoleezza Rice was met at Shevchenko University with a standing ovation. One could tell by Rice's expression that talking to students adds to her positive feelings" (Era's 11:45 pm Pidsumky newscast); "U.S. will help Ukraine become member of the club in the EU and NATO. This was promised by the

U.S. Secretary of State and the world's most influential woman, according to Forbes magazine, Condoleezza Rice" (UT-1's 9 pm Novyny newscast).

7. The Secretary's meeting with Yulia Tymoshenko created some speculation in television and wire/web reports on December 7. Some suggested that because of that meeting Rice was late by an hour for her meeting with Foreign Minister Tarasyuk ("For Rice, Tymoshenko Took Preference Over Tarasyuk," Versii website (www.versii.com); "Rice Met with Tymoshenko and Was Late for the MFA," Liga web-based wire). STB television's 10 p.m. newscast called the meeting "the most mysterious part in the Secretary's schedule closed to the press." Novyi Kanal's main 7 p.m. newscast said: "In Kiev, Condi defied the protocol slightly and pushed back her meeting with her counterpart, Foreign Minister Tarasyuk because of the BYuT leader. The two ladies did not have enough time to talk anyway and Rice invited Tymoshenko to visit the U.S." In the rendering on Channel 5, owned by former National Security and Defense Council head Poroshenko, the mention of Rice inviting Tymoshenko to the U.S. conveyed a shade of jealousy.

8. Initial commentary on the visit appeared December 7 in an article on the GlavRed website by foreign policy correspondent Alyona Getmanchuk: "It is obvious how much Rice has progressed on the Ukrainian issue during the past several years. While Russophile notes appeared from time to time in her speech, they were combined with barely disguised disappointment [in Russia]. The tone of Rice's statements in Kiev gives reason to surmise that the Bush Administration is ready to support Ukraine's democratic

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efforts without looking back at Moscow, even though the American President has not come through on his promise to visit Ukraine 'by the end of the year,' and that Washington has not yet signed the bilateral commodity and service markets access protocol which would allow Ukraine to talk about practical accession to WTO."

9. Moderate daily "Den's" international observer, Serhii Solodkyi, offered some substantive commentary on the results of the visit in his article "Condoleezza Smile": "Most importantly, personal distrust between the leadership of the two countries vanished. Four years ago her [Sec. Rice's] look was austere and piercing (Note: The U.S., at the time, was concerned over Ukrainian arms sales to Macedonia). Yesterday she gratified everybody with a charming smile... The value of the American Secretary of State's smile grows on the backdrop of the difficult overall European tour of Secretary Rice. The so-called prison scandal is at its height in the world alleging the existence of secret CIA prisons in Europe."

10. The influential analytical weekly "Dzerkalo Tyzhnya," on December 10, offered a large front-page article by Alyona Getmanchuk entitled "The Other Rice." Commenting on the German and Romanian leg of the Secretary's European tour, Getmanchuk writes: "The European tour by Condoleezza Rice can hardly be called a diplomatic triumph - one that was supposed to ultimately reconcile Washington and Berlin and significantly strengthen the Trans-Atlantic axis. Meeting the new German Chancellor and ceremonial signing of the agreement to open new U.S. bases in Romania were marred by the flame of the scandal around the secret CIA prisons on European soil. In fact, Kiev became the only stop in the Secretary's itinerary where Condoleezza Rice could move away from the topic of American 'mini-Gulags' and pay more attention to bilateral cooperation."

11. Describing the Secretary's visit to Kiev, Getmanchuk wrote: "One could hardly recognize in the American guest the very same Stanford professor who once confidently stated that 'Ukraine is on the sidelines of history.' ... Rice's disappointment with Moscow's policies reached a critical point -- probably for the first time in Kiev an American politician of such high rank allowed herself to publicly reproach Russia for its wrongs with respect to democracy."

12. Further, the author surmises concerning the underlying reason for the visit: "Of course, today's U.S. support for the Ukrainian leadership is not only caused by the

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processes in Russia. For Washington, the slide in Yushchenko's and Nasha Ukraina's ratings equals devaluation of the ideals of the democratic movement that overcame tyranny in Ukraine and, according to Rice, inspired peoples of Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan and some other countries that were lacking freedom: An obvious fact is that President Bush is not going to visit Ukraine prior to these elections -- Washington doesn't want this to be seen as sign of support for a particular political force. After all, it is not clear how such visit would reflect on the rating of that political force."

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